GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – A.P. Forest Department – Departmental Proceedings initiated against Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), formerly Guntur Range, Guntur (T) Division, Guntur Circle, under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 - Punishment of "withholding of 5% (five percent) of pension for a period of five (5) years", against the Charged Officer - Imposed - Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.10 **Dated:05.02.2024**

Read the following:

1)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur, Lr.Ref.No.19027/38/2019/A&DC-2, dated 19.05.2022.

2)Govt.Memo.No.1261/Sec.IV/A1/2021, EFS & T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 04.08.2023.

3)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri, Lr.Ref.No.19027/38/2019/A&DC-2, dated 08.01.2024.

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ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur has informed that the following Article of Charge was issued to Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer, Guntur Range, Guntur (T) Division, Guntur Circle in Rc.No.EFS02-19027/38/2019/Vig-1, dated 27.02.2020, under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991:-

Article:"That the said G. Venkateswara Rao, working as Forest Range Officer, Guntur Range of Guntur (T) Division had failed to perform his legitimate duty to protect the forest land in Nakarikallu Section and also failed to take action as per existing rules in A.P. Forest Act, 1967 which resulted in large scale of encroachments in the Forest land together with drilling of Bore well".

2. The Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of Article of Charge on 28.02.2020 and submitted his written defense statement, dated 29.02.2020. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur has appointed the Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle as Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Guntur as Presenting Officer in Proc.No.EFS02-19027/38/2019/Vig-1 (i&ii), dated 26.03.2021, for conducting the regular enquiry.

3. The Inquiry Officer & Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle has completed the inquiry and submitted his findings in Rc.No.1412/2018/M3, dated 10.02.2022, wherein, the Inquiry Officer has concluded that the Charge held **proved.**

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur has communicated the findings of the Inquiry Officer to the Charged Officer in Ref.No.EFS02-19027/38/2019/A&DC-2, dated 21.02.2022. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of the final notice on 07.03.2022 and submitted his further defense statement, dated 29.03.2022.

P.T.O.

5. The disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980, since the Charged Officer was retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on 29.02.2020.

6. After careful examination of the matter with reference to the findings of the Inquiry Officer and further defense statement submitted by the Charged Officer, Government have taken a provisional decision to impose a punishment of "withholding of 5% (five percent) of pension for a period of five (5) years" against Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), formerly Guntur Range, Guntur (T) Division, Guntur Circle, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

7. Accordingly, in the Memo., 2nd read above, a Show-cause Notice was issued to the Charged Officer through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri, for submission of his representation.

8. In the letter 3rd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri has informed that the Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of Show-cause Notice on 20.09.2023 but did not submit his representation.

9. After careful examination of the entire issue, Government have decided and hereby order to impose a punishment of "withholding of 5% (five percent) of pension for a period of five (5) years" against Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), formerly Guntur Range, Guntur (T) Division, Guntur Circle, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri shall take necessary further action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri G. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), formerly Guntur Range, Guntur (T) Division, Guntur Circle through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri.

Copy to:

The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
SF/SC (Computer No.1738769).

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER